ATLAS
MARVEL TALES

THE STRANGEST STORIES EVER TOLD!

MARVEL TALES

SEPT.
NO. 118
10¢

IT WAS ONLY A SMALL BOTTLE OF SECRET SERUM, BUT BECAUSE OF IT

"A WORLD GOES MAD!"

IT'S WORKING! IT'S WORKING!

HE'S SOMEPLACE AROUND HERE! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM *BEFORE HE USES* THE SERUM!

"MOON MADNESS!"

"THE SPOTTED DEATH!"

"THE MAGIC WORD!"

ON SALE MONTHLY

You Can WIN

This 15" tall SILVER TROPHY JUST AS I DID IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY!

I GAINED 53 LBS. OF SHAPELY POWER-PACKED MUSCLES!

Which of these 2 ME'S is YOU? THAT 112 LB.-6 FT. SPINDLE-ARMED SISSY below WAS ME A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET FOR ALL 5 10¢ PICTURE PACKED COURSES MILLIONS HAVE BEEN SOLD FOR $1 AND MORE

When I enrolled I was a skinny, sick weakling. As you can see in my "Before" Photo I looked like a child... years younger than my age. I was ashamed to take a picture in bathing trunks as I do now. I was shy with girls because I had nothing to show off. A few weeks after starting the Jowett Course my body was the best in the neighborhood. Now I get respect and admiration from every fellow and girl I meet.

Roger D'Hirsch NEW YORK NOW

There's that skinny scarecrow ROGER. Let's pass him by!

Roger Hirsch before

NO! friend you don't have to be **SKINNY** any more just mail **NOW** the **FREE** coupon below as I did. Soon **YOU** can add **6½** inches to your **CHEST** **3** inches to each **ARM** and the rest in proportion just as I did.

How to Build MIGHTY ARMS
How to Build A MIGHTY CHEST
How to Build MIGHTY LEGS
How to Build A MIGHTY BACK
How to Build A MIGHTY GRIP
FREE
PHOTO BOOK HOW to Achieve Nerves of Steel, Muscles of Iron
How to BECOME A MIGHTY HE-MAN

ROGER HIRSCH was a 112 lb. 6 ft. WEAKLING. Look at him NOW— A MOVIE-STAR HE-MAN from Head to Toe as **YOU** can be soon!

Come on, PAL, NOW YOU GIVE ME 10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR HOME... AND I'LL GIVE YOU a NEW HE-MAN BODY For Your OLD SKELETON FRAME.

says *George F. Jowett* World's Greatest Builder of HE-MEN

GEORGE F. JOWETT "Champion of Champions" 4 times Winner Perfect Man Contest

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are; if you're a teen-ager, in your 20's or 30's or over; if you're short or tall, or what work you do. All I want is JUST 10 EXCITING MINUTES in your home to MAKE YOU OVER by the SAME METHOD I turned myself from a wreck to a Champion of Champions.

BOTH *FREE* FOR QUICK ACTION!
1. Photo Book of STRONG MEN
2. MUSCLE METER

Dept. M A- 39

"Jowett Course greatest in World for Building All-Around HE-MEN" — P. F. Keller Director Physical

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING
220 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

Dear George: Please mail to me FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men and a Muscle Meter, plus all 5 HE-MAN Building Courses: 1. How to Build a Mighty Chest. 2. How to Build a Mighty Arm. 3. How to Build a Mighty Grip. 4. How to Build a Mighty Back. 5. How to Build Mighty Legs—Now all in One Volume "How to become a Mighty HE-MAN." ENCLOSED FIND 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (no C.O.D.'s).

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

YES! You'll see INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to YOUR ARMS. Your CHEST deepened. Your BACK AND SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels, you'll gain SOLIDITY, SIZE, POWER, SPEED! You'll become an ALL-Around, ALL-American HE-MAN, A WINNER in everything you tackle—or my Training won't cost you one solitary cent.

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES, FAST!

Friend, I've traveled the world. Made a LIFETIME STUDY of every way known to develop your body. Then I devised the BEST by TEST, my "5-WAY PROGRESSIVE POWER" the only method that builds you 5-ways fast. You save YEARS, DOLLARS like movie star Tom Tyler did. Like champ Roger Hirsch did. Like MANY THOUSANDS like you did. SO Mail coupon NOW!

MAIL COUPON IN TIME FOR FREE OFFER!

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SNUGGLE INTO YOUR COSY CORNERS, KIDDIES, AND FEAST YOUR OPTICS ON THIS EYE-OPENER! THEY SAY YOU CAN FOOL ***SOME*** OF THE PEOPLE ***ALL*** OF THE TIME...AND AMOS BENTON WAS OUT TO FOOL THE WORLD! THEY BELIEVED HIM TOO...BECAUSE AMOS WAS ***ALWAYS RIGHT!*** BUT, ***HOW RIGHT*** CAN A GUY BE?

MOON MADNESS!

YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF AMOS BENTON...HE DOESN'T ALLOW PUBLICITY IN THE NEWSPAPERS, AND HE OWNS MOST OF THEM! HE OWNS MANY THINGS! IN FACT BENTON IS THE RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH! THAT'S THE TROUBLE ...AMOS BENTON FIGURES THAT THE EARTH IS TOO SMALL FOR HIM... AND BENTON INSISTS HE IS ALWAYS RIGHT!

A TALE TO MARVEL AT!

IT'S NIGHT! AMOS BENTON SITS IN THE SANCTUARY OF HIS OFFICE! THE NOISE OF THE CITY IS MUTED BY SOUNDPROOF WALLS! HE READS AN AD HE'S INSERTED IN HIS CHAIN OF NEWSPAPERS...

24

· WANTED ·

EVENING

TOUGH, STRONG, ADVENTUROUS MEN WILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE ON SPACE FLIGHT. BIG RETURN FOR MEN NOT AFRAID OF DANGER. SUITE 905, BENTON BUILDING.

FOR RENT

A WHISPER OF SOUND STIRS SUBCONSCIOUS SENSES! THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE HERE IN THIS SILENT ROOM WITH HIM...

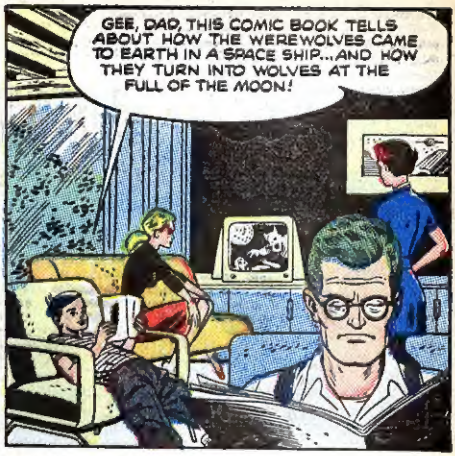
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I'VE COME IN ANSWER TO YOUR AD! I WALKED UP... DIDN'T BOTHER WITH THE NIGHT ELEVATOR!

BENTON STUDIES THE MAN...SEES THE TOUGHNESS, THE HARD EYES, THE LEANNESS...
YOU'LL DO! ANY RELATIVES OR CLOSE FRIENDS WHO MIGHT GET CURIOUS IF YOU TURN UP MISSING?
NONE! YOUR AD SAYS SPACE FLIGHT! WHERE TO?
TO THE MOON! THIS IS A MODEL OF THE SHIP! I HAVE EVERYTHING IN READINESS FOR ASSEMBLING...METAL PARTS, CONCENTRATED FOODS... EVERYTHING!
WHAT ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT?
THE GOVERNMENT IS BUILDING ITS OWN SPACE SHIP TO FLY TO THE MOON! THEY'VE FORBIDDEN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE TO ATTEMPT THE FLIGHT! BUT I AM GOING TO! THE FIRST MAN TO LAND ON THE MOON CAN STAKE OUT AND CONTROL ALL RIGHTS TO MINERALS, OIL, PRECIOUS STONES... EVERYTHING! THAT'S INTERNATIONAL, AND NOW... UNIVERSAL LAW!
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! I'M ALWAYS RIGHT! NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, DO YOU STILL WANT IN? BY THE WAY... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MY NAME'S KURT... JUST KURT! YEAH, I STILL WANT IN! BUT HOW'RE YOU GOING TO KEEP THE GOVERNMENT SHIP FROM GETTING THERE FIRST?
LEAVE THAT TO ME...I HAVE A PLAN! I'LL NEED MORE MEN...MECHANICS, ENGINEERS, NAVIGATORS! I'LL FLY THE SHIP MYSELF, BUT I NEED OTHERS...
I'LL GET THEM! MEN LIKE ME WHO WANT TO FLY TO THE MOON!
GET YOUR MEN...I'LL DO THE REST! I'VE BUILT A FACTORY, SECRETLY, DEEP IN THE NORTH WOODS! WE ARE READY TO ASSEMBLE THE SHIP!
YEAH... YOU'RE ALWAYS RIGHT!
2

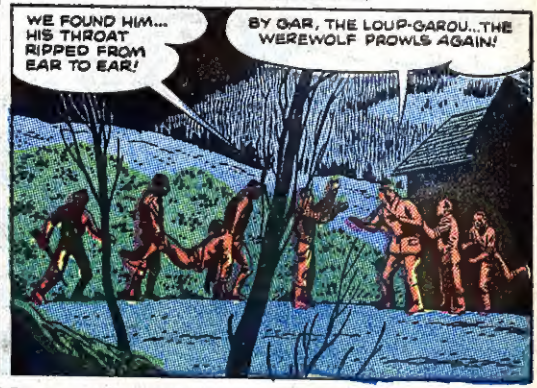
THE MAN LEAVES! NOW BENTON CALLS IN HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY...
FRED, I'M GOING TO START A CAMPAIGN IN MY NEWSPAPERS THAT WILL MAKE THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY BELIEVE THAT THE MOON IS THE HOME OF WEREWOLVES!
THIS IS THE 20TH CENTURY, CHIEF! PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE IN THOSE THINGS ANY MORE!
WE'LL MAKE 'EM BELIEVE IT! I CONTROL MOST OF THE NEWSPAPERS IN THIS COUNTRY, AND THROUGH THEM I SHAPE THE PUBLIC'S THOUGHTS AND BELIEFS! I WANT THE PEOPLE TO BECOME AFRAID TO ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO SEND A SHIP TO THE MOON!
AFRAID IT WILL COME BACK WITH WEREWOLVES ABOARD?
RIGHT! ONCE I CAN GET THEM TO THINK THAT WAY... PLAY ON THEIR FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN AND HORRIBLE...THEY'LL STOP THAT SPACE SHIP FROM EVER LEAVING THE EARTH!
SO THAT YOU CAN GET TO THE MOON FIRST!
OF COURSE! DUST OFF THE OLD LEGENDS, FIND NEW IDEAS TO GIVE CREDENCE TO THE THOUGHT... FIND SCIENTISTS TO SUBMIT THEORIES TO SUBSTANTIATE THE WEREWOLF LEGEND! TELL THE PUBLIC I SAY IT'S SO... AND I'M ALWAYS RIGHT! GET TO WORK, FRED!
RIGHT AWAY, CHIEF! WE'LL USE THE SLOGAN...MOON MADNESS!
SO IT BEGINS! AT FIRST THE PEOPLE LAUGH...
LOOK AT THIS BALONEY ABOUT WEREWOLVES!
DO THEY THINK WE'RE KIDS TO BELIEVE IN THAT STUFF?
IT GOES ON...NEWSPAPERS, RADIO, TELEVISION, BOOKS...
DR. KLEINHAUS, YOU ARE A MAN WHO HAS WON WIDE ACCLAIM AS A SCIENTIST! YOU SAY YOU BELIEVE IN WEREWOLVES?
DEFINITELY! THERE IS ALWAYS A BASIS OF FACT IN ALL LEGENDS! THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH TO SUBSTANTIATE THE EXISTENCE OF WEREWOLVES AND THEIR CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE MOON, NOT TO BELIEVE...
BUT IF WEREWOLVES CAME FROM THE MOON, HOW DID THEY GET TO EARTH?
IN 1768, A METEOR STRUCK THE EARTH, NEAR WHERE PHILADELPHIA NOW STANDS... IT WAS FOUND BY KRAMER AND NAMED KRAMER'S METEOR! IT IS THE CONSENSUS OF SCIENTIFIC BELIEF TODAY THAT THIS WAS NOT A METEOR...THAT IT WAS A PART OF A SPACE SHIP FROM THE MOON WHICH CRASHED ON THE EARTH!

EXTRY! READ ALL ABOUT IT! SCIENTISTS SAY WEREWOLVES LANDED ON EARTH FROM MOON IN SPACE SHIP, 200 YEARS AGO!
HERE... GIVE ME A PAPER!
MOON MADNESS!


GEE, DAD, THIS COMIC BOOK TELLS ABOUT HOW THE WEREWOLVES CAME TO EARTH IN A SPACE SHIP...AND HOW THEY TURN INTO WOLVES AT THE FULL OF THE MOON!

OUR INSTRUCTOR IN COLLEGE TOLD US THE MOON INFLUENCES THE EARTH POWERFULLY! THAT IF THAT GOVERNMENT SHIP GOES TO THE MOON, AND IT IS THE HOME OF WEREWOLVES, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MAY HAPPEN!

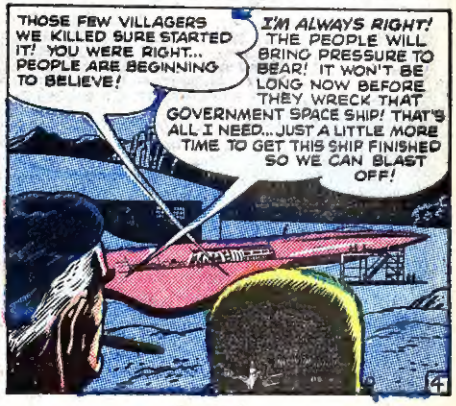
NOW THE SCARES BEGIN! THE BODIES FOUND WITH THEIR THROATS RIPPED OUT! THE REVIVAL OF OLD LEGENDS! IT BEGINS IN LITTLE HAMLETS IN THE NORTH-WOODS AMONGST SUPERSTITIOUS VILLAGERS...



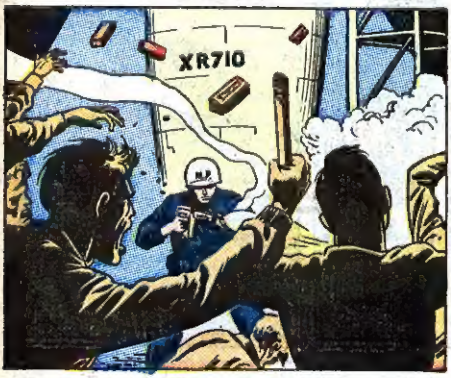
AND IT SPREADS DOWN ALONG THE COAST TO OUTLYING TOWNS AND CITIES!

LISTEN! THAT HOWL! THE MOON IS FULL TONIGHT... A NIGHT FOR WEREWOLVES!
WHY MUST THEY GO TO THE MOON? WE SHOULDN'T ALLOW IT...WE PAY THE TAXES! EVEN AMOS BENTON SAYS IT'S TRUE! HERE'S THE ARTICLE...AND YOU KNOW HIM... HE'S ALWAYS RIGHT!

LIKE A ROLLING SNOWBALL IT GATHERS MOMENTUM, AND DEEP IN THE NORTHERN WOOD, AMOS BENTON SMILES...


THOSE FEW VILLAGERS WE KILLED SURE STARTED IT! YOU WERE RIGHT... PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE!
I'M ALWAYS RIGHT! THE PEOPLE WILL BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR! IT WON'T BE LONG NOW BEFORE THEY WRECK THAT GOVERNMENT SPACE SHIP! THAT'S ALL I NEED...JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME TO GET THIS SHIP FINISHED SO WE CAN BLAST OFF!

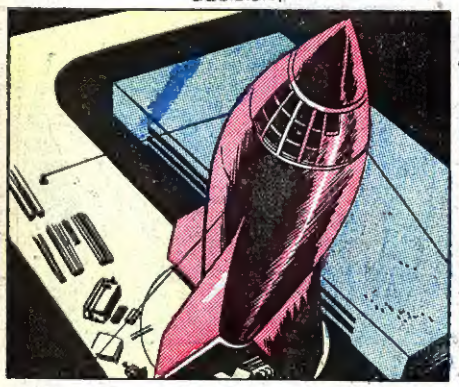
WHISPERS, VOICES, GRUMBLING, PROTESTING, UNTIL THEY BUILD UP INTO A ROAR, THE ROAR OF THE MOB...PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN HAMMERED AT UNTIL ALL DEFENSES ARE DOWN AND ONLY RAW TERROR IS LEFT!



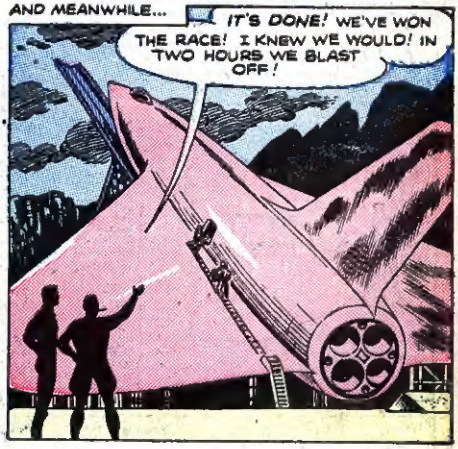
POLITICIANS LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE THAT ELECT THEM, AND MINGLE THEIR VOICES WITH THE PEOPLE'S...

THIS SHIP MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE GROUND!
WE HAVE A DUTY TO THE PEOPLE!
WE DON'T WANT WEREWOLVES! TO THE DEVIL WITH THE MOON!

AND WHILE CONGRESSMEN ARGUED OVER THE TRIP TO THE MOON ALL WORK ON THE GOVERNMENT ROCKET CAME TO A HALT, PENDING A CONGRESSIONAL DECISION!

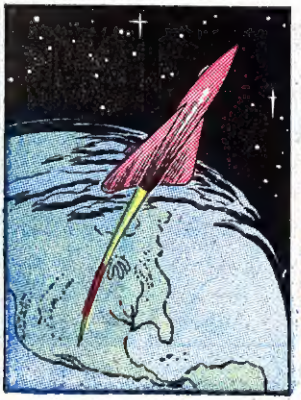


AND MEANWHILE...



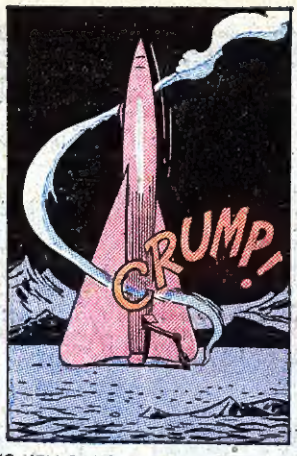
THE TIME HAS COME...THE CONTROLS ARE SET! THE MOON BEAMS FROM ABOVE, BECKONING, AS THE ROCKETS ROAR, SPURNING THE EARTH...

THE CRAFT HURTLES AWAY FROM THE EARTH INCREASING ITS SPEED TO A FRIGHTENING VELOCITY!



THREE MONTHS LATER...

THE EARTH IS A DISC IN THE BLACK DISTANCE! JETS COUGHING SMOKE AND FLAME, THE SHIP SETTLES DOWN ON THE MOON'S SURFACE...



THE SHIP ERUPTS MEN, AND THE FIRST MAN OUT IS AMOS BENTON... THE UNSCRUPULOUS TYCOON, THE FIRST MAN TO SET FOOT ON THE MOON!

I'VE DONE IT! THE FOOLS! THEY BELIEVED WHAT I TOLD THEM... WHAT I PRINTED...AND THEIR SUPERSTITIOUS FEARS HELPED ME HOODWINK THEM! THE WHOLE PLANET AND ITS RICHES ARE MINE!

A REPLY COMES TO BENTON, ECHOING HOLLOWLY FROM THE EARPHONES IN HIS HELMET...

YEAH, THEY BELIEVED YOU, BENTON! THEY *BELIEVED* ABOUT THE WEREWOLVES...THEY *BELIEVED* THEY HAD COME FROM THE MOON TO EARTH IN A SPACE SHIP CENTURIES AGO! THEY BELIEVED THE MOON IS THE TRUE HOME OF THE WEREWOLF!

THEY *BELIEVED* THAT STORY ABOUT THE METEOR THAT HAD REALLY BEEN A SPACE SHIP FROM THE MOON! SURE, BENTON, YOU ALWAYS GET YOUR WAY! EVEN WITH *ME*...YOU ASKED ME TO GET MEN LIKE *MYSELF* FOR THIS ENTERPRISE...AND I DID!

YEAH, MEN LIKE MYSELF, WHO WERE IN THAT SPACE SHIP THAT CRASHED ON EARTH! WHO HAVE WAITED TWO CENTURIES TO GET BACK TO THEIR HOME...*TO THE MOON!* THERE'S ONE THING YOU *FORGOT*, BENTON...

SUDDENLY AMOS BENTON REALIZES NOW... BUT *HOPES* HE'S *WRONG!* WITH THE THING HE KNOWS RIPPING AT HIS GUTS, TEARING SANITY TO SHREDS... SLOWLY HE TURNS...

EVERYTHING YOU TOLD THEM WAS *TRUE*, BENTON! THE THING YOU FORGOT WAS... *YOU'RE ALWAYS RIGHT... REMEMBER? YOU'RE ALWAYS RIGHT!*
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

STOP FILLING YOUR BODY FULL OF UNPRESCRIBED DRUGS, LAXATIVES or STARVING YOURSELF WITH DANGEROUS DIETS . . .

NOW TRY THIS AMAZING NEW INVENTION

REDUSAWAY

REDUSAWAY, the amazing new electric home masseur works without exercise, diets, laxatives or drugs. Apply REDUSAWAY to arms, legs, abdomen, neck, chest, hips or any other part that causes you embarrassment and annoyance and see what it will do for you.

INCREASES CIRCULATION—REDUSAWAY goes to work on fat tissues caused by sluggishness and poor circulation. Now all you have to do is to plug REDUSAWAY into your AC electric outlet and grasping the handle firmly, apply to any part of the body. Almost instantly you will feel a surge of circulation in the area. Your body itself has at last been nudged into doing its work of stimulating the circulation.

FOR ACHES AND PAINS—Use for aches and pains where massage is indicated. REDUSAWAY is wonderful for the relief of discomforts for which physicians normally prescribe massage.

FOR RELAXATION AND RELIEF OF FATIGUE—ELECTRIC REDUSAWAY is also wonderful for the relief of fatigue as a result of over-exertion and works on the same principle as the hands of a masseur, gently massaging the fatigued muscles whether athlete or housewife.

Underwriters Laboratories Approved

only **$7.95** A C 110-120

SENT ON APPROVAL FIRST TRY 10 DAYS

For an invigorated appearance try REDUSAWAY 10 days on approval. Only $7.95. You must be thrilled and delighted or full purchase price will be refunded. Mail the coupon and begin enjoying the good feeling from electric REDUSAWAY.

*T.M. Reg. U. S. PATENT OFFICE Pending

WARD GREEN CO. Dept. R489-A

113 W. 57th St., New York 10, N. Y.

Rush my **REDUSAWAY,** by return mail, in plain wrapper. If I don't feel invigorated—if I'm not delighted with the results in 10 days I may return **REDUSAWAY** for full refund of purchase price.

- ☐ Enclosed find $7.95. (Ward Green pays postage.)
- ☐ Send C.O.D. I'll pay postman $7.95 plus postage and C.O.D. charges.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

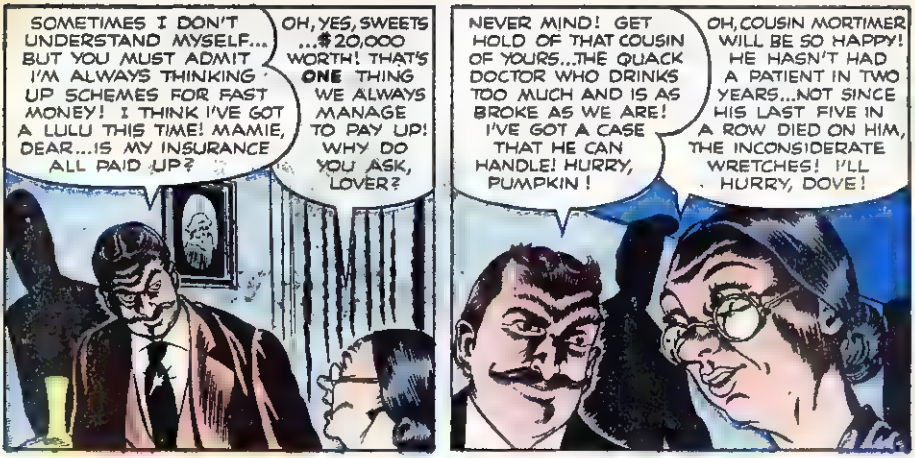
POOR AMOS! THE ONE TIME HE SHOULD'VE BEEN **WRONG**... HE GETS THROWN TO THE **WEREWOLVES!** NOW LET'S CONSIDER ONE WORD THAT MEANT DISASTER AND DEATH... ONE WORD THAT BROUGHT SUFFERING! BUT THREE PEOPLE HAD A PLOT AND WEREN'T AFRAID OF THE WORD! WOULD **YOU** BE AFRAID OF IT? LISTEN...HERE IT IS!

TYPHOID

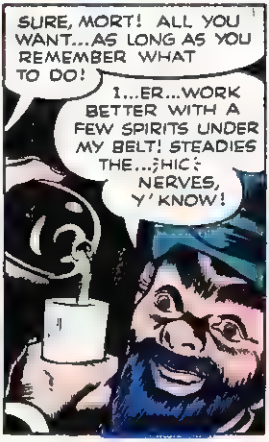
A TALE TO MARVEL AT!
WARNING! CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO STAY INDOORS AND AVOID CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER! A TYPHOID EPIDEMIC IS UPON US... AND THERE IS NO CURE!

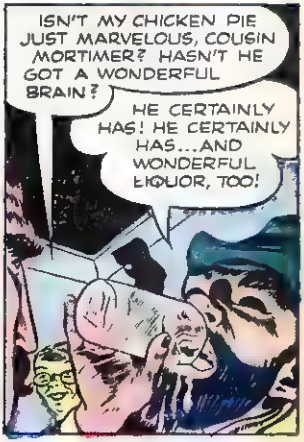
THE TIME...1875! THE PLACE, THE HOME OF JOSEPH SIMPSON IN CHICAGO!

DID YOU READ ABOUT THIS, MAMIE? THERE'S A TYPHOID EPIDEMIC IN NEW YORK! PEOPLE ARE DYING BY THE THOUSANDS!
YES... ISN'T IT TERRIBLE?


SOMETIMES I DON'T UNDERSTAND MYSELF... BUT YOU MUST ADMIT I'M ALWAYS THINKING UP SCHEMES FOR FAST MONEY! I THINK I'VE GOT A LULU THIS TIME! MAMIE, DEAR...IS MY INSURANCE ALL PAID UP?
OH, YES, SWEETS ...$20,000 WORTH! THAT'S ONE THING WE ALWAYS MANAGE TO PAY UP! WHY DO YOU ASK, LOVER?
NEVER MIND! GET HOLD OF THAT COUSIN OF YOURS...THE QUACK DOCTOR WHO DRINKS TOO MUCH AND IS AS BROKE AS WE ARE! I'VE GOT A CASE THAT HE CAN HANDLE! HURRY, PUMPKIN!
OH, COUSIN MORTIMER WILL BE SO HAPPY! HE HASN'T HAD A PATIENT IN TWO YEARS...NOT SINCE HIS LAST FIVE IN A ROW DIED ON HIM, THE INCONSIDERATE WRETCHES! I'LL HURRY, DOVE!

SO THE THREE MET...MR. AND MRS. SIMPSON...AND DR. MORTIMER BROWN...
GOT EVERYTHING STRAIGHT, MORT?
OF COURSE! AND I MUST SAY...HIC... IT'S A GOOD IDEA! CAN I HAVE ANOTHER?


SURE, MORT! ALL YOU WANT...AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER WHAT TO DO!
I...ER...WORK BETTER WITH A FEW SPIRITS UNDER MY BELT! STEADIES THE...HIC... NERVES, Y'KNOW!


ISN'T MY CHICKEN PIE JUST MARVELOUS, COUSIN MORTIMER? HASN'T HE GOT A WONDERFUL BRAIN?
HE CERTAINLY HAS! HE CERTAINLY HAS...AND WONDERFUL LIQUOR, TOO!

THAT NIGHT, THE TRIO PUT THE SCHEME TO WORK!
WHERE IS THE PATIENT, MY DEAR WOMAN?
UPSTAIRS, DOCTOR! HURRY, PLEASE HURRY! HE'S AWFULLY SICK! OH...BOO-HOO!
SOMEBODY'S SICK!
WHO?
MR. SIMPSON!

AN HOUR LATER...
I'VE DONE ALL I COULD FOR THE PRESENT, MA'AM! KEEP HIM IN BED AND DON'T ALLOW ANY VISITORS! I'LL BE BACK LATER! HIC... PARDON ME!
NO VISITORS!
MUST BE BAD!

WELL? HOW ARE THEY TAKING IT?
OH, THE NEIGHBORS ARE ALL IMPRESSED, THE POOR FRIGHTENED DEARS! I CAN BE QUITE AN ACTRESS WHEN I WANT TO BE!
SURE! NOW IF WE CAN ONLY KEEP THAT DRUNKEN COUSIN OF YOURS ON THE BALL, WE'LL BE ALL SET! AND WHEN I "DIE" OF TYPHOID, THEY'LL ALL FALL FOR IT!
BUT, CHICKADEE, I DON'T UNDERSTAND! IF YOU'RE TO DIE, HOW WILL IT BENEFIT YOU?
I'LL TELL YOU ONE MORE TIME! I'M NOT DYING! I'M ONLY PRETENDING TO! MORT'S GOING TO SAY THAT I DIED OF TYPHOID! THAT WAY, HE CAN SEAL THE COFFIN AND BURY IT RIGHT AWAY WITHOUT ANYONE BEING THE WISER THAT I'M NOT DEAD! THEN...YOU COLLECT THE INSURANCE WHILE I HIDE OUT AND MEET YOU AND THE DOC AT THE STATION!
OH, YOU'RE SO CLEVER, LOVE!
AREN'T I, THOUGH? OF COURSE, WE'LL HAVE TO BURY SOMEONE IN MY PLACE...BUT I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT!
OF COURSE YOU WILL! YOU TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, PEACHES!
PSSST! MRS. MULROONEY! THERE GOES THE DOCTOR AGAIN!
YEAH! I SEE! OH, I'M SO WORRIED!
IT'S BEEN HOURS AND THE DOCTOR HASN'T COME OUT YET!
I DO HOPE IT'S NOT...IT'S NOT...
SHUT UP, LILLIE!
DON'T SAY THE WORD! YOU HEAR ME? DON'T SAY IT!
NO, FRANCIS... I WON'T...

DAYS PASSED! THE DOCTOR SPENT ALL HIS TIME IN THE SIMPSON APARTMENT! THEN, ONE NIGHT IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN...
GOT A HANDOUT FOR A POOR BUM, MISTER?
SURE... I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU...
HERE!
OHHH!
WHILE THE CITY SLEPT, SIMPSON BROUGHT THE HOBO'S BODY TO HIS PLACE:..
HERE'S YOUR PATIENT, MORT!
HIC AH...FINE! FINE!
THE NEXT MORNING, THE THIRD STEP IN THE SCHEME WAS PUT INTO ACTION...
THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO FOR HIM, MRS. SIMPSON! I ADVISE IMMEDIATE BURIAL! I'VE SEALED THE CASKET SO THE DISEASE WON'T SPREAD! YOU SEE, MADAM... YOUR POOR HUSBAND HAD TYPHOID!
TYPHOID! SO IT REACHED CHICAGO! BURY HIM AT ONCE!
OH! OH! OOOOH!
THE MURDERED HOBO'S BODY WAS BURIED IN PLACE OF SIMPSON'S! MRS. SIMPSON COLLECTED THE INSURANCE... AND SHE GOOD DOCTOR MET SIMPSON AT THE RAILROAD STATION!
PERFECT, EH? WE HAD TO WORK FAST TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PUBLIC'S FEAR... AND WE GOT AWAY WITH IT! NOW WE GO TO CALIFORNIA AND LIVE LIKE MILLIONAIRES!
OH, SWEET! YOU'RE SO CLEVER!
LET'S HIC GET ABOARD! I NEED SOME-ER-STIMULANT! OUR COMPARTMENT IS 3-B!
OH...ER...SORRY! DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE ELSE WAS HERE!
COME IN! COME IN! I DON'T MIND AT ALL!
IN FACT, I'D LOVE COMPANY! I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO ANYONE BUT MY WIFE FOR DAYS! SHE'S GETTING SOME NEWSPAPERS FOR ME NOW! DO COME IN!
THANK YOU! WE WILL!
HOW NICE TO HAVE COMPANY!
HOW NICE TO HAVE A DRINK! HOW ABOUT IT, JOE?
LATER!

AH! HERE'S MY DEAR WIFE NOW! DARLING, I WANT YOU TO MEET...
NEVER MIND! THIS IS A PRIVATE COMPARTMENT! WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING HERE?
WHY...IT'S OUR COMPARTMENT ...NUMBER 3-B!
THIS IS 3-D! NOW GET OUT! GET OUT!
PLEASE, MY DEAR! DON'T BE SO HASTY!
DON'T WORRY! WE'LL GET OUT!
HUMPH! WHAT A DAME! WHAT MANNERS!
BUT HE WAS NICE, WASN'T HE? HE WANTED COMPANY SO BAD...AND I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO TALK TO HIM FOR A LONG TIME!
CAN I HAVE THAT DRINK NOW?
SURE, MORT...FROM NOW ON, WE'LL ALL HAVE EVERYTHING WE WANT! WHAT A SCHEME, EH? NOTHING WENT WRONG!
WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING, IT NEVER GOES WRONG, APPLE DUMPLING!
MY DRINK... IF YOU DON'T MIND...
JOHN! HOW COULD YOU? HOW COULD YOU ALLOW THOSE PEOPLE TO STAY IN HERE...WITH YOU?
BUT, MY DEAR, I WAS LONELY! YOU NEVER LET ME TALK TO ANYONE!
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THIS WILL DO TO THEM! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY IN PRIVATE...ONLY WITH ME...BECAUSE I'M IMMUNE...BUT YOU...YOU HAVE.. TYPHOID!..AND IT'S CATCHING!
...AND NOW THOSE POOR, INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL GET IT AND DIE WITHIN DAYS...AND ALL BECAUSE THEY WERE KIND TO YOU AND KEPT YOU COMPANY!
BUT MISERY LOVES COMPANY! SAD, ISN'T IT?
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

FAT FOLKS! Your Dream Has Come True!

How to Lose UGLY FAT Without Dieting – Hunger!

- NO DIET
- NO EXERCISE
- NO "METHODS"
- NO "PLANS"
- NO DRUGS

DOCTORS approve and recommend MELTABS because it contains no drugs. The formula is the discovery of a group of doctors associated with one of New York's leading hospitals.

If you are a normal, healthy, overweight man or woman by all means read about this amazing, new, clinically tested medical discovery that is already creating a sensation all over the country.

Forget all about diets, hunger, calorie counting, massage, drugs, exercise and all other unpleasant, unnecessary things usually associated with reducing.

For a great medical discovery now makes it possible for you to lose pounds of excess fat safely — *without dieting, without having a single hungry moment*

Doctors Discover Meltabs

Most doctors agree that the best way to lose excess fat is to eat less — to go on a restricted diet. A group of New York doctors, making a special study of obesity, realized however, that while dieting was desirable it wasn't as easy or as simple as it sounds for most overweight people.

Men: Why not try MELTABS, the natural way to take off excess weight that's neither good for you nor good to look at

Meltabs has been clinically tested by doctors connected with one of New York's largest hospitals.

Hunger — The Fat Person's Enemy!

Dieting for most folks means hunger. And few people can resist hunger. So they appease it by eating between meals, by going off their diets. And back come the unwanted pounds and inches.

So these New York doctors worked for years searching for a formula that would lick hunger and make people lose fat safely, *without dieting*. They finally announced success in a food adjunct called MELTABS.

Clinical Tests Proved Their Discovery

The doctors clinically tested MELTABS on a large group of non-glandular overweight men and women.

The group undergoing the tests were instructed by the doctors to chew or suck a tasty MELTABS before each meal, but not to go on any special diet, nor to cut out any special foods — just sit down at the table and eat until satisfied.

Results Amazing

Every member of the group lost 8 to 20 pounds in a short period of time; in fact satisfactory weight losses were noticed the very first week. And not a single person said she had a hungry moment

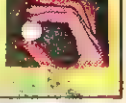
Meltabs as Harmless as Water

A food adjunct — not a drug

During the tests the doctors carefully checked the physical condition of each member of the group, took electro-cardiograms, and did not find a single case of ill effect. Everyone said she never felt better. So at last, the fat person's dream has come true — a way to lose excess fat without dieting, without hunger, without giving up the foods she likes

Start slimming down your figure. Get MELTABS today. $3 for a month's supply. GUARANTEE. If you aren't pleased with the weight you lose after using one bottle of MELTABS you get your money back

How Meltabs Prevents Overeating — Hunger



According to scientific calculations, one Meltabs wafer has the hunger satisfying capacity of 1 lb boiled potatoes, or 5 slices white bread, or 4 eggs — yet it contains only 5 calories.

MAIL COUPON NOW!

ROBIN PRODUCTS CO., Dept MCB
26 East 46th St., New York 17, N. Y.

Send me 30 Day Supply of MELTABS
I enclose $3.00 for postpaid delivery. ☐
Send C. O. D. — I will pay postman $3.00 plus postal charges. ☐

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

Your money back if you don't LOSE WEIGHT

THE INFERNAL COACH!

THIS strange mystery took place in England in the year 1750. The Black Duke of Killingsworth was a vicious, brutal man, and he gloated over his influence with the reigning monarch, George II. By influencing the king to *his* way of thinking, the Duke could control the people and the life of England, for he would be the "power behind the throne". The Black Duke had one mortal rival for the king's favor. This was the Duke of Cumberland, whose advice George II sometimes took. The Black Duke knew that somehow he must get rid of his hated rival.

Meanwhile, the mad duke did everything he could to outwit and outshine his rival. He married the fair Roxana only because he knew that Cumberland was in love with her. The Black Duke bought up great areas of land, so that his estate would be twice the size of Cumberland's. Finally, the Black Duke decided he would have built the most ornate, the most beautiful coach in England, and he sent word to a coachmaker living in a town which was part of the Duke's domain. This old coachmaker was the most skilled in the country, and his young son was his apprentice. The coachmaker sent his son to the Duke's castle to answer the nobleman's summons.

As the Black Duke stood on a high rampart of his castle, gazing at the vast expanse of his estate, the coachmaker's son was brought before him. The Black Duke ordered the boy to have built in his father's shop a coach that would be the envy of all England.

"I want a coach that will even outshine that of the king!" he roared.

The boy was innocent of the Duke's violent temper as he replied. "It seems to me unseemly to want to have something *better* than our monarch!"

These unexpected words enranged the mad duke. "*I* rule England!" he screamed. The boy started to contradict him, but the Duke struck him a mighty blow on the head. The boy fell from the high rampart and his body was crushed on the ground below! The Duke ordered one of his servants to testify that the boy had attacked him and therefore the Duke had to defend himself, and thus the boy had fallen from the rampart accidentally. The Black Duke knew that this testimony would satisfy the Sheriff of Killingsworth, for this law officer feared the wrath of the noble lord.

Sorrow reigned in the home of the old coachmaker. He was heartbroken at the death of his only son. He knew the mad Duke was guilty of murder, but he was helpless to do anything about it. Yet, he must revenge his son's death somehow. And then, a plan began to form in his mind. He sent word to the castle that he *would* make a coach for the Duke as he had ordered.

That same night, the old coachmaker made his way to a certain grove of trees that grew in a plot of earth considered unhallowed, for here, in this ground, were buried the remains of evil sorcerers, witches, profane creatures such as vampires, which had been destroyed in this region during the past century and buried in this unholy earth! It was a place which the inhabitants avoided with fear. But the coachmaker proceeded to cut down some trees in this profane grove. He took the timber to his shop and fashioned a coach for the Duke. When it was finished, it was indeed a coach of superb design and construction, and when he delivered it to the castle, the Black Duke was delighted with it. The Duke tossed a small sack of gold toward the coachmaker, who then left, a sly smile playing around his tight-lipped mouth.

It was not long before strange things began to happen. One evening, the Duchess Roxana used the coach to visit friends. On her return to her own castle, spectral figures with horrible faces suddenly materialized from the wood framework of the coach and danced before the horses! The animals were frightened out of their wits and raced wild-eyed along the bumpy road. The scared coachman lost control of the animals, and they stumbled into a ditch. The coach overturned and the Duchess Roxana was seriously injured!

The coachman raced to the castle and summoned help. The injured woman was carried to the castle and up to her room. When the coachman described what had happened, the Black Duke whipped him within an inch of his life. How could he believe the fantastic claims about spectral horrors? He accused the coachman of carelessness in handling the horses and ordered him never to set foot on the Killingsworth estate again!

It was not long after that when the second incident occurred. It was evening, and the mad Duke was returning from London in his coach. A new coachman drove the horses. Just

(*continued after next page*)

Reader's Digest Reports Good News for all sufferers from PIMPLES

Acne, Blackheads, and Other Externally caused Skin Blemishes

SAME TYPE MEDICATION AS ALTON WAS USED IN SUCCESSFUL CLINICAL TESTS REPORTED IN Reader's Digest, JAN., 1952 (pg 81)

*To the best of our present knowledge.

*Only Alton Medicated Skin Formula #38 Will Cover The Entire Face . . . or Large Areas of Skin . . . Uniformly —Blending With Your Own Complexion To Hide All Skin Blemishes . . . While It Works!

It's astounding . . this new, revolutionary Formula which we believe makes all other skin preparations out-of-date! It's almost a miracle how quickly and easily the entire face, if necessary, can be smoothly covered. Alton has a life-like skin color; blends beautifully, applies like a dream. Alton is ideal as a medication base under make-up, too. You can look your best (Alton whisks skin blemishes out of sight) yet know that at the same time Alton is working. Combines active ingredients used by many leading skin specialists. Not greasy, has a pleasant scent, and is absolutely harmless. Remains intact until you wish to remove it. It's also water-repellent. In every way, Alton is the modern skin preparation, developed to answer the needs of those who care and to answer them smartly, intelligently, and economically.

Special Note to GIRLS & WOMEN

Embarrassed by "periodic" pimples? You'll find Alton a friend to your face during those trying times.

In addition to Alton Medicated Skin Formula #38, you also get the Special Skin Cleanser. Together, this Double-Action Combination enables you to attack your externally caused skin problems with all the knowledge medical science can place at your command.

Now, while the memory of prying eyes deepens your misery, resolve to do something about your skin worries. Send for the Alton Skin Combination today! There's no risk – you must be thrilled and delighted, or DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

Physicians & Hospitals desiring to make clinical tests will receive our complete cooperation. Please write at once

Boys . . . Girls . . . Men & Women . . .

No matter your age . . . no matter your sex, the good things that make a full life are your heritage. Don't let them slip away because you did nothing about your blemished skin. Save your present — and your future . . . send today for Alton's Medicated Skin Formula #38 and Special Skin Cleanser. You will be grateful you did!

Try ALTON at our risk!

Skeptical? Wonder whether Alton can really do the job? That's a healthy attitude, and we welcome the chance to show you, at no risk to you. Yes, if you're not delighted in every way in just 10 days, simply return the unused portion and we refund not only the price you paid but DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK. You have the chance to find skin happiness—and we take all the risk!

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

This ironclad guarantee assures you the following: Either you are thrilled and delighted, or you may return the unused portion to us within 10 days and receive DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK.

ALTON LABORATORIES, INC.

Rush DOUBLE REFUND COUPON

Alton Products Inc. Dept. S-709
363 Central Park Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.

Rush, in plain wrapper Alton Skin Combination consisting of Medicated Skin Formula #38, and Special Skin Cleanser. I will pay postman just $2 plus postage. If not delighted, may return unused portion within 10 days for refund of DOUBLE MY PURCHASE PRICE.

Name _____

Address _____

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☐ SAVE MONEY! Send $2 now, we pay postage. Same Double Refund offer holds, of course.

APO, FPO, Canada and Foreign add 50c—no COD.

Alton Products Inc., Dept. S-709, 363 Central Pk. Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.

continued

before reaching the castle, a snag-toothed, cackling old witch materialized suddenly from the framework of the coach and grabbed one of the wheels. The Duke's small son was running down the road to greet his father on his return. The witch directed the wheels of the coach right at the boy . . . it struck him! The mad duke carried the broken body of his son into the castle, vowing death to the coachman who had driven the coach so recklessly!

In the days that followed, the mad Duke locked himself in his room and would see no one, except for one manservant who brought him his food and plenty of whiskey to drink. The Duke wondered if his wife and son would survive their injuries. He would not leave the castle until his duchess and his heir were fully recovered.

But one day word came from the Court in London that the Duke of Cumberland was now strongly in the king's favor and the Black Duke was losing ground. There was but one thing for the madman to do . . . he must *kill* Cumberland! So, he went to London and put his evil plan into action. At a chance meeting with Cumberland, the mad Duke accused his rival of plotting the murder of the king. This charge was too much for Cumberland and he slapped the mad Duke. This was what the latter was waiting for. He challenged Cumberland to a duel, to be held in the forest outside London the following dawn. Cumberland's friends feared for him, for the Black Duke was a deadly shot.

The following morning, at dawn, the duelists were in place at the appointed spot. They stood back to back, their pistols tightly clutched in their hands. The word was given, and the opponents took ten paces in opposite directions. They turned. The Black Duke's shot missed Cumberland, for heavy drinking lately had made his hands unsteady! But Cumberland's shot struck the mad Duke. The latter was placed in his waiting coach, but before his driver could climb up to the coachman's seat, the horses raced off as if guided by unseen hands!

Inside his coach, the Black Duke knew fear for the first time in his life. Suddenly, he was terrified by the appearance of a mysterious stranger in the seat next to him. "You smell of the grave!" the Duke cried out. "Where did you come from?"

"From a realm of *many* graves!" replied the stranger. And then the figure removed the portion of his cape that partially concealed his face, and the mad Duke gasped. For his companion was *Death!* The figure's face was corpselike and almost skeletal!

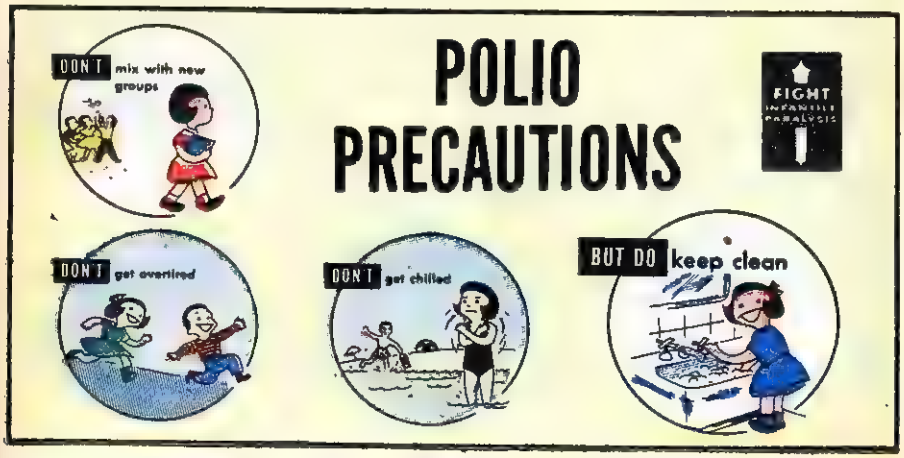
"What do you want of me?" asked the Duke, trembling.

"*You* are one of us now!" Death replied. "You *died* the instant your friends put you inside the coach! Being dead, you had no further need of your own coachman . . . so now your coach has *another* driver! See for yourself!"

The Black Duke stuck his head out the window, at which moment the figure in the driver's seat turned and grinned at him. The new coachman . . . it was *Satan!* Satan laughed wildly, as the infernal coach dashed into a region of sulphur vapors, bubbling pits and flying demons, hobgoblins and assorted fiends of Hades!

The mad Duke knew where he was now . . . and he screamed in wild anguish as the demons crawled about him and dragged him forth from his coach!

THE END D-157



MAKES LEARNING MUSIC SO **EASY** --IT'S ALMOST LIKE MAGIC!

I DIDN'T KNOW A SINGLE NOTE WHEN I STARTED!

WHAT I LIKE IS THE **LOW COST** --JUST A FEW CENTS A LESSON!

AND IT'S SO MUCH **FUN**--YOU START RIGHT OUT PLAYING REAL PIECES!

I'VE LEARNED TO PLAY SO **QUICKLY** MY FRIENDS ARE SIMPLY AMAZED!

Every One's Talking About This

WONDERFUL, EASY WAY TO LEARN MUSIC!

No Matter WHO You Are, or WHERE You Live, or How LITTLE You Know About Music, You Can Soon Play Your Favorite Pieces by Note. FREE BOOK Tells All About It.

NO wonder over 850,000 people have chosen this modern way to learn music! Here at last is a method by which anyone can learn to play his favorite musical instrument quickly and easily.

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EVEN IF all these things are true of you, we guarantee to show you how to play! So *quickly* your friends will be amazed. So *pleasantly* you'll really look forward to each new lesson. So *inexpensively* you'll never miss the few cents per lesson it costs!

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Instead of making you do tedious scales and tiresome exercises, the U. S. School of Music Lessons (in words and pictures) enable you to *learn by playing real pieces*—right from the start! As a result, your progress is amazingly rapid. Almost before you realize it, you find yourself playing your favorite pieces *by note*.

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I am interested in learning to play, particularly the instrument checked here. Please send me your free illustrated booklet, "How to Learn Music at Home"—also the free Instruction Sample of your simplified words-and-pictures teaching method. NO SALESMAN IS TO CALL UPON ME.

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ (Zone Number, If Any)

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- ☐ Guitar
- ☐ Hawaiian Guitar
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- ☐ Saxophone
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- ☐ Ukulele
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THOUSANDS NOW PLAY WHO NEVER THOUGHT THEY COULD

Now Plays For Dances

"I DIDN'T KNOW ONE NOTE! Three months later I started to play for dances. I have been invited to many parties and made people very happy with my music." Miss Rosie Montemurro, Vancouver, B. C., Canada.

Learns Faster

"I have no special talent—but thanks to your method, I play my guitar (according to impartial people) better than many students who have taken lessons from teachers for longer periods." — Myrelle-Muguette Saint-Andre, Montreal, P. Q., Canada.

Amazes Her Friends

"I bet some friends that I could learn piano quickly. They didn't believe me—because I am slow learning. Imagine their surprise when I played for them. One said: 'Why it sounds like you've been playing for years!'"—Louise Gomes, Oakland, Cal.

Now Famous Band Leader

"I got my start in music with a U. S. School Course. How easy it is to learn to read notes and play an instrument this 'teach yourself' way! I've enrolled my two daughters." Lawrence Welk, top band leader.

HERE'S AN OLD FAMILIAR STORY THAT *YOU* MAY RECOGNIZE IN SPITE OF ITS STRANGE, NEW SETTING! YES, THEY LAUGHED AT *THIS* MAN TOO...LONG AND LOUD...WHILE HE HUSTLED AND BUSTLED, BUSY AS A BEE! AND SURE ENOUGH, THE SCORNERS GOT *STUNG*...AND HOW!

NOAH

OURS HAS BEEN A LONELY PATH THRU LIFE, NEZRA, BECAUSE OF YOUR PREACHINGS AND PROPHECIES, WE HAVE BEEN SCORNED AND BEATEN WHEREVER WE TRAVELED. CAN YOU SAY, HUSBAND, THAT I EVER COMPLAINED ONCE ?

NO, MY DEAR WIFE...

A TALE TO MARVEL AT!

BUT *NOW* WHEN YOU DEMAND THAT I FOLLOW YOU *OFF EARTH* ITSELF.. LEAVE THIS PLANET FOREVER...MY HEART IS CHILLED WITH FEAR,

IT IS TRUE.. AS THE WIFE OF A PROPHET YOU HAVE SUFFERED MUCH...

BUT I HAVE HAD *MY VISION!* AND IN THE VISION I WAS COMMANDED TO BUILD THIS ROCKET AND FILL IT WITH MALE AND FEMALE OF ALL LIVING THINGS ON EARTH...

"LIKE DRY AUTUMN LEAVES, MY WORDS HAVE FALLEN UNHEEDED ALL THESE YEARS! REMEMBER HOW EVERYBODY SCOFFED WHEN I PROPHESIED THE CONQUEST OF THE PLANET BY TORUS, THE TYRANT OF THE EAST, IN 3016 A.D."
VROOOM
"REMEMBER HOW THEY SNEERED WHEN I PROPHESIED THE DESTRUCTION OF CULTURE, THE HUNTING DOWN OF ALL VIRTUOUS MEN"
AND YET THESE VISIONS CAME TO PASS! BUT DO NOT THINK THAT WE ARE QUITTING ALL THIS WICKEDNESS BECAUSE MY HEART IS WEARY AND BITTER. NO! WE SHALL LEAVE ONLY BECAUSE MY VISION HAS COMMANDED ME TO!
WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT YOUR CRAZY EXPEDITION, NEZRA?
AH, TORUS HIMSELF... RULER OF THE WORLD!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, OLD FOOL... PANIC US ALL BY REVIVING THE ANCIENT LEGEND OF NOAH AND THE ARK?
LOOK AT THE CLOUDLESS SKIES AND THE FOOL PROPHESIES TORRENTIAL RAINS!
SPEAK UP, NEZRA WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
SHALL I ELIMINATE HIM, SIR?
I HAVE NO WORDS LEFT FOR MEN ON EARTH NO PROPHECIES. NO WARNINGS AS SOON AS THE LAST BEAST IS LOADED, I SHALL LEAVE FOREVER!
NOW, GREAT TORUS SHALL I ELIMINATE HIM NOW?
NO! TO KILL HIM WOULD MEAN WE FEAR HIM. THAT WE GIVE CREDENCE TO HIS IMPLICATION OF GREAT FLOODS! LET HIM LIVE AND LEAVE! THE CLOUDLESS SKIES WILL BRAND HIM A SNIVELING FOOL!

SO TORUS LEAVES, BUT AS HE STRIDES AWAY A VAGUE FEAR FURROWS HIS MASSIVE BROW.

HUGO! DISPATCH A COURIER TO THE WEATHER CENTER! TELL THEM I SHALL APPEAR IN PERSON TONIGHT FOR A DETAILED REPORT ON THE PROBABILITY OF PROTRACTED RAINFALL IN THE NEAR FUTURE!

YOU ARE WISE, GREAT TORUS! WHY TAKE CHANCES?

THAT NIGHT AT THE WEATHER CENTER...

WELL?

SIR, OUR WEATHER-MACHINE STATES CONCLUSIVELY THAT THERE IS *NO CHANCE WHATSOEVER* OF PROTRACTED RAINFALL IN THE NEAR FUTURE! WE HAVE DOUBLE-CHECKED ALL THE DATA... AND THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF ERROR!

WHAT WAS THE REPORT, TORUS?

WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR! BECAUSE OF A MAD DREAM WE ARE RID OF NEZRA WHO HAS BEEN A THORN IN OUR SIDE ALL THESE YEARS!

THE FOLLOWERS OF TORUS BREAK INTO WILD THUNDEROUS LAUGHTER... THEIR RELIEF IS SO GREAT, THEY ARE STILL LAUGHING WHEN NEZRA'S COMET LEAVES EARTH FOREVER IN A ROARING BURST OF FLAME!

AND THE JOKE GETS FUNNIER AND FUNNIER ESPECIALLY WHEN A WHOLE MONTH PASSES WITHOUT A *SINGLE DROP* OF RAIN!

WHAT A PROPHET! *NEZRA THE NUMSKULL!* IF I COULD ONLY SEE HIS FACE NOW!

MORE TIME PASSES WITHOUT RAIN AND NOW THEIR THROATS TURN RAW AND DRY WITH LAUGHTER

MANY YEARS LATER..

NEZRA, WE HAVE A GOOD LIFE HERE BUT I MISS EARTH, SHALL WE EVER RETURN?

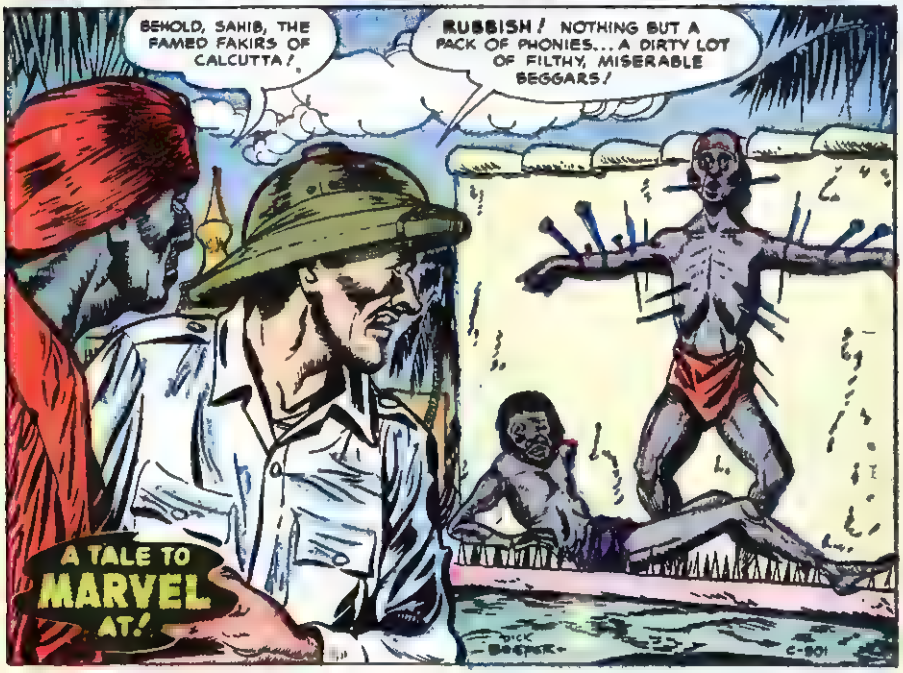
THERE IS NOTHING TO RETURN TO, MY WIFE! AS MY VISION FORETOLD OUR DEPARTURE WAS FOLLOWED BY AN ENDLESS AND *ABSOLUTE DROUGHT*... *AND EVERYONE ON THAT WICKED PLANET HAS DIED OF THIRST!*

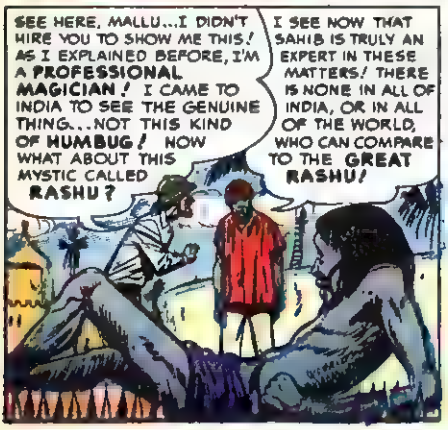
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

SO MASTER TORUS AND HIS LAUGHING BOYS WERE LEFT HIGH AND DRY! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MAGIC? WELL, THIS SAHIB IS JUST MAD ABOUT THE ART OF THE FAKIRS IN CALCUTTA! HE'S GONNA LEARN THEIR SECRETS, IF HE HAS TO KILL FOR IT! BUT DEATH CAN BE A GIVE-OR-TAKE PROPOSITION!

THE MAGIC WORD


BEHOLD, SAHIB, THE FAMED FAKIRS OF CALCUTTA!
RUBBISH! NOTHING BUT A PACK OF PHONIES... A DIRTY LOT OF FILTHY, MISERABLE BEGGARS!
A TALE TO MARVEL AT!
DICK BOZER
C-901


SEE HERE, MALLU... I DIDN'T HIRE YOU TO SHOW ME THIS! AS I EXPLAINED BEFORE, I'M A PROFESSIONAL MAGICIAN! I CAME TO INDIA TO SEE THE GENUINE THING... NOT THIS KIND OF HUMBUG! NOW WHAT ABOUT THIS MYSTIC CALLED RASHU?
I SEE NOW THAT SAHIB IS TRULY AN EXPERT IN THESE MATTERS! THERE IS NONE IN ALL OF INDIA, OR IN ALL OF THE WORLD, WHO CAN COMPARE TO THE GREAT RASHU!

BUT THE GREAT RASHU IS A DIFFICULT PERSON TO REACH, AND HE PERFORMS BUT RARELY! HOWEVER, FOR THE PROPER FEE, A MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED!
THEN ARRANGE IT! MAKE IT FOR TONIGHT! I'LL PAY AND PAY WELL!

LATE THAT EVENING, AS THE TWO MEN APPROACH A SIMPLE DWELLING PERCHED ATOP A ROCKY BLUFF...
THE HOME OF THE GREAT RASHU, SAHIB! ALL HAS BEEN ARRANGED AND HE AWAITS YOUR ARRIVAL!
IN THAT CASE, I WON'T BE NEEDING YOU ANY FURTHER!
THIS SHOULD COVER YOUR SERVICES, MALLU! I'LL BE ABLE TO FIND MY WAY BACK WITHOUT YOU!
WHATEVER THE SAHIB WISHES! I TRUST YOU WILL FIND THE VISIT ENTERTAINING AND PROFITABLE!
IT BETTER BE PROFITABLE! I DIDN'T TRAVEL THOUSANDS OF MILES JUST TO WATCH A PERFORMANCE! IF THIS RASHU HAS ANYTHING I CAN USE IN MY OWN ACT, I INTEND TO GET IT!
BUT A SECOND LATER, HIS THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED BY AN UGLY, HISSING SOUND...
A COBRA! IT'S GOING TO STRIKE!
THEN, TO HIS GREATER SHOCK...
IT'S GONE! IT DISAPPEARED IN A PUFF OF SMOKE!
A SIMPLE DEMONSTRATION OF ILLUSORY PERCEPTION! PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF! I AM RASHU!
YOU HAD ME FOOLED FOR A MINUTE, BUT A NICE DEMONSTRATION, RASHU! YOU DID IT VERY NEATLY!..VERY NEATLY INDEED!
IN THE HOUR THAT FOLLOWS, RASHU CONTINUES HIS PERFORMANCE, EACH DEMONSTRATION MORE FANTASTIC THAN THE ONE BEFORE! THEN...
AND NOW, OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE LONG JOURNEY YOU MADE, I WILL PERFORM THE RAREST DEMONSTRATION OF ALL! THE ACT OF PHYSICAL LEVITATION!
WONDERFUL! I HAVE OFTEN HEARD OF THE FEAT, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN IT DONE!

A NOTE OF EXPECTANCY FALLS ACROSS THE SCENE AS RASHU'S LIPS MOVE IN AN ALMOST SOUNDLESS WHISPER...
SECONDS LATER, MAN AND MAT RISE INTO THE AIR!
THEN, LIKE A FEATHER IN THE BREEZE, THE GREAT RASHU WAFTS SLOWLY BACK TO EARTH....
HE DID IT! I'VE ACTUALLY SEEN IT! WITH MY OWN EYES!
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME HOW IT'S DONE! IT WOULD MAKE ME THE GREATEST MAGICIAN IN AMERICA! I WILL PAY YOU WELL, RASHU! ANY PRICE YOU ASK!
I AM SORRY, MY FRIEND, BUT I CANNOT IMPART THE SECRET! IT CANNOT BE REVEALED!
I'M A DETERMINED MAN, RASHU! DON'T TRY ME! EITHER YOU TELL ME YOUR SECRET OR I'LL KILL YOU!
YOU POSED AS A FRIEND, AND NOW YOU THREATEN MY LIFE!
FOR THE LAST TIME, RASHU! TELL ME YOUR SECRET OF LEVITATION OR I SHOOT!
ALL RIGHT! (GASP!) I WILL TELL YOU!
IT IS A MATTER... OF KNOWING THE MAGIC WORD! YOU CAN REPEAT IT AFTER ME!
ALL RIGHT, RASHU...TELL ME THE WORD! BUT REMEMBER, IF IT DOESN'T WORK... YOU DIE!

THE WORD IS VARA-NASH-POK! LOOK UP AT THE STARS, THEN SAY THE WORD, SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY!
ALL RIGHT... HERE GOES!
TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT, HE GLANCES SKYWARD! SLOWLY AND DISTINCTLY THE WORD FORMS ON HIS PULSING LIPS...
VARA-NASH-POK!
AND A MOMENT LATER...
IT WORKS! I'M RISING... RISING!
I'LL BE THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL! THEY'LL COME FROM FAR AND... WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE FORGOTTEN!
HOW DO I GET DOWN? RASHU...HOW DO I GET BACK? WHAT IS THE WORD? TELL ME...RASHU... HELP ME!
VARA-NASH-POK! VARA-NASH-POK!..IT... IT WON'T WORK! THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER MAGIC WORD! TELL ME, RASHU... I BEG YOU!!
HIS CRY OF ANGUISH ECHOES AND RE-ECHOES, THEN GROWS SILENT! THE EARTH DWINDLES AWAY, AND THE LIFELESS BODY ASCENDS HIGHER STILL... HIGHER AND HIGHER INTO THE COLD, VOID REGIONS OF GLITTERING OUTER SPACE...
THE END

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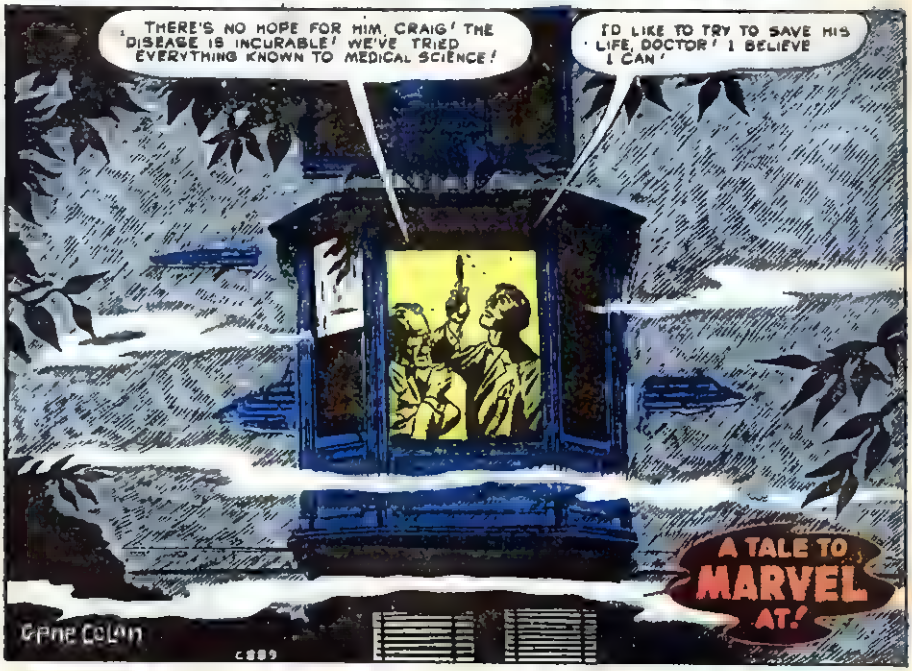
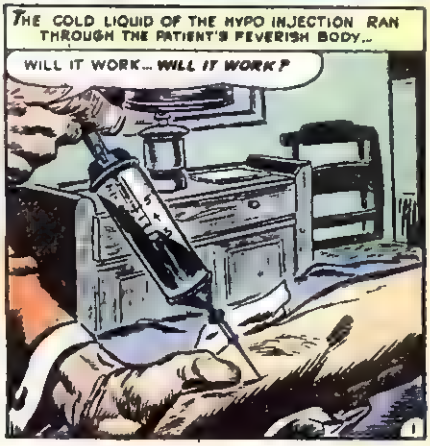
THE SAHIB IS A HIGHFLIER! BUT WE'LL BRING *YOU* "DOWN TO EARTH" WITH THIS CHILLER! IF *YOU'VE* EVER WISHED FOR *IMMORTAL LIFE*, THEN *THIS* TALE SHOULD MAKE YOU THINK TWICE--'CAUSE ALL IS NOT GOOD WITH THE DOCTOR'S PLAN! WHAT COULD GO WRONG? YOU'LL SEE!

WHEN A WORLD WENT MAD!


THERE'S NO HOPE FOR HIM, CRAIG! THE DISEASE IS INCURABLE! WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING KNOWN TO MEDICAL SCIENCE!
I'D LIKE TO TRY TO SAVE HIS LIFE, DOCTOR! I BELIEVE I CAN!
A TALE TO MARVEL AT!
Gene Colan
c889

DUBIOUSLY THE DOCTOR YIELDED TO JORDAN CRAIG'S OFFER! HIS EYES GLITTERING, HIS HANDS CLUTCHING THE LITTLE BLACK SATCHEL LIKE A TREASURE, CRAIG STEPPED INTO THE ROOM OF DEATH..
AT LAST! THE FIRST TEST OF MY YEARS OF WORK! *THE TEST!* GRISLY SPECTER OF DEATH... I CHALLENGE YOU!

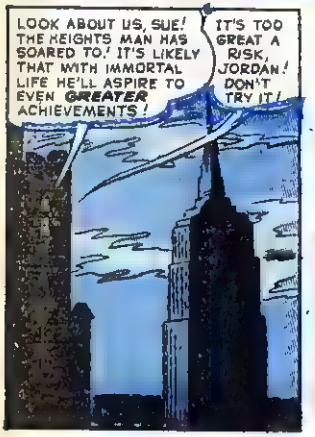


JORDAN CRAIG AVOIDED FURTHER EXPLANATION AND RETURNED HOME! IN HIS LABORATORY NEXT DAY HE BUSIED HIMSELF WITH FINAL PREPARATIONS OF AN ASTONISHING PLAN...

JORDAN! EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU SAVED SIMON DORING'S LIFE! SIMON'S EVEN BACK AT WORK TODAY!
OF COURSE, MY DEAR! HE'LL LIVE FOREVER! SO WILL YOU...I... EVERYONE! I'VE CREATED A SERUM TO GIVE IMMORTAL LIFE TO EVERYONE!

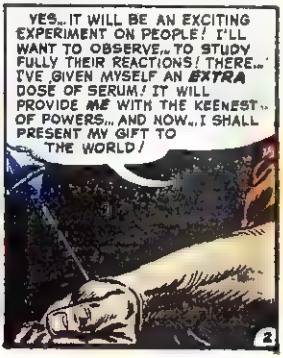
I'M READY TO RELEASE MY FORMULA TO THE WORLD! NEWSPAPERS WILL CARRY THE STORY! AND I'M EVEN PLANNING A GLOBAL FLIGHT TO BE CERTAIN NO PEOPLE ON EARTH MISS OUT ON IT!
BUT, JORDAN, YOU CAN'T GIVE IMMORTAL LIFE TO THE WORLD! IT WILL DESTROY CIVILIZATION!

THE WORLD HAS BEEN ON THE BRINK OF ATOMIC WAR FOR SO MANY YEARS! BUT WE STILL LIVE IN PEACE! THE ONLY THING THAT HAS HELD BACK TOTAL WAR IS FEAR OF DEATH! WITH THAT FEAR REMOVED, NO ONE WILL HESITATE ANY LONGER! ATOMIC WAR WILL BE UNLEASHED!
YOU'RE ONLY GUESSING! THAT MAY NOT HAPPEN!

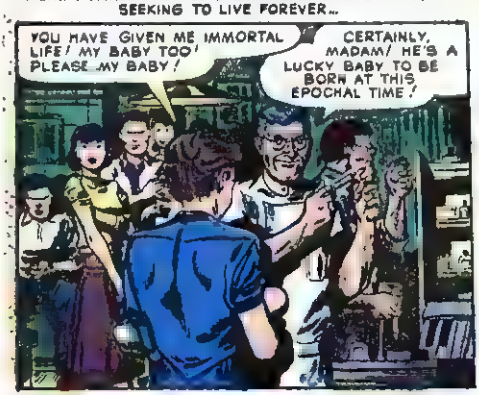

LOOK ABOUT US, SUE! THE HEIGHTS MAN HAS SOARED TO! IT'S LIKELY THAT WITH IMMORTAL LIFE HE'LL ASPIRE TO EVEN GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS!
IT'S TOO GREAT A RISK, JORDAN! DON'T TRY IT!

WHATEVER MANKIND DOES WITH THE GIFT OF LIFE, IT WILL BE A MOST INTERESTING EXPERIMENT! WE'LL BEGIN RIGHT NOW! YOU FIRST, SUE!
NO! NO! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE FOREVER IF WAR IS THE ANSWER!

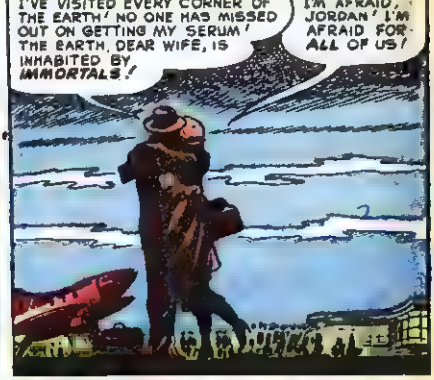
BUT SUE HAD NO CHOICE! THE SERUM INJECTION RACED THROUGH HER VEINS, AND JORDAN CRAIG, SMILING CONFIDENTLY, PROVIDED HIMSELF ALSO WITH IMMORTALITY...


YES... IT WILL BE AN EXCITING EXPERIMENT ON PEOPLE! I'LL WANT TO OBSERVE... TO STUDY FULLY THEIR REACTIONS! THERE... I'VE GIVEN MYSELF AN EXTRA DOSE OF SERUM! IT WILL PROVIDE ME WITH THE KEENEST OF POWERS... AND NOW... I SHALL PRESENT MY GIFT TO THE WORLD!

JORDAN CRAIG RELEASED HIS FORMULA THAT MADE NEWSPAPER FRONT PAGES... NEWS OF THE MOST MOMENTOUS IMPORTANCE TO MAN! MEDICAL CENTERS WERE JAMMED! PEOPLE EVERYWHERE... BESEECHING, SEEKING TO LIVE FOREVER...



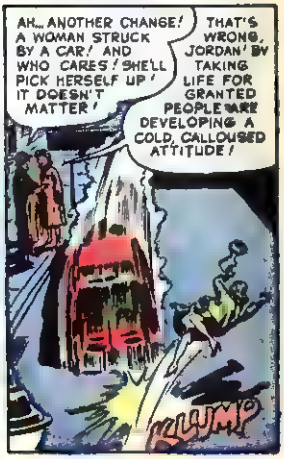
SOME DAYS LATER, JORDAN CRAIG ALIGHTED FROM A SUPER-JET-CRUISE PLANE, HIS MISSION ACCOMPLISHED...


I'VE VISITED EVERY CORNER OF THE EARTH! NO ONE HAS MISSED OUT ON GETTING MY SERUM! THE EARTH, DEAR WIFE, IS INHABITED BY IMMORTALS!
I'M AFRAID, JORDAN! I'M AFRAID FOR ALL OF US!

DON'T BE FOOLISH, SUE! WE'RE PERFECTLY SAFE! WE CAN'T DIE! AND EXPERIMENTATION'S ENJOYABLE, AS WELL AS HAVING VALUE!
YOU SEEM TO HAVE DONE THIS MORE FOR YOUR PERSONAL ENJOYMENT THAN ANYTHING ELSE!

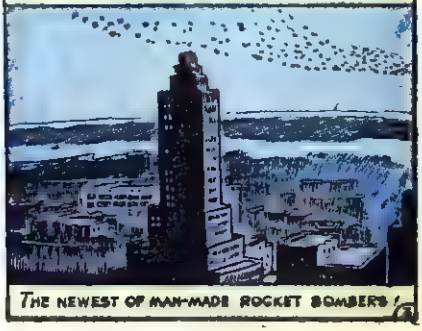
YES... JORDAN CRAIG WAS BEGINNING TO ENJOY THOROUGHLY WHAT WAS BECOMING HIS LITTLE GAME OF WATCHING, OBSERVING...

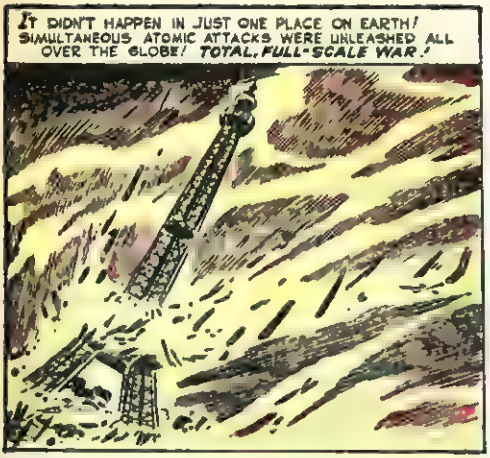
THAT WINDOW-WASHER! HE'S FALLING!
SUE! CAN'T YOU GET USED TO THE FACT THAT HE WON'T EVEN BE HURT? WINDOW-WASHERS DON'T NEED SAFETY BELTS NOW! AND THEY CAN FALL IN SAFETY!


AH... ANOTHER CHANGE! A WOMAN STRUCK BY A CAR! AND WHO CARES! SHE'LL PICK HERSELF UP! IT DOESN'T MATTER!
THAT'S WRONG, JORDAN! BY TAKING LIFE FOR GRANTED PEOPLE ARE DEVELOPING A COLD, CALLOUSED ATTITUDE!
PLUMP

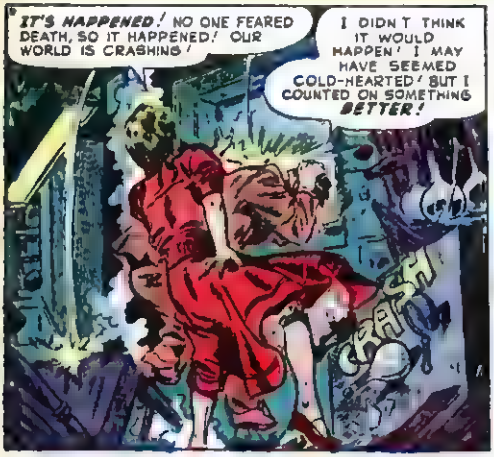
YOU'RE THE SCIENTIST, JORDAN! YOU GAVE THEM IMMORTAL LIFE! CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING TO TAKE IT BACK?
I WON'T! WHY SHOULD I? THIS IS A PRICELESS GIFT... A BOON!

IT WAS 15 AND ½ MINUTES PAST 4 ON A FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 26, 1996, WHEN JORDAN CRAIG SPOKE THOSE WORDS... "A PRICELESS GIFT!" AT EXACTLY THAT MOMENT, DARK STREAKS DOTTED THE SKIES..



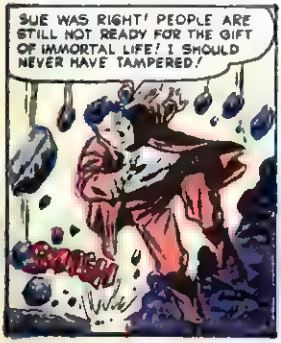

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN IN JUST ONE PLACE ON EARTH! SIMULTANEOUS ATOMIC ATTACKS WERE UNLEASHED ALL OVER THE GLOBE! TOTAL, FULL-SCALE WAR!

THE MOST WIDESPREAD, DEVASTATING HOLOCAUST THAT HISTORY COULD NEVER RECORD! BUT THE STRANGEST THING OF ALL... HUMAN BEINGS STRONGER THAN STEEL AND STONE..
CAN'T DIE! HA-HA-HA! CAN'T DIE!


IT'S HAPPENED! NO ONE FEARED DEATH, SO IT HAPPENED! OUR WORLD IS CRASHING!
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD HAPPEN! I MAY HAVE SEEMED COLD-HEARTED! BUT I COUNTED ON SOMETHING BETTER!
CRASH

BE CALM, SUE! AT LEAST WE'LL LIVE THROUGH IT! I'M GOING DOWN TO THE STREET! I WANT TO SEE THE PEOPLE! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO THEM!
OUR WORLD - CRASHING!
CRACK EEEEE EEEAAK

CRAIG HAD NO FURTHER DESIRE TO OBSERVE WITH SCIENTIFIC COLDNESS! SHARP DISAPPOINTMENT KNIFED HIM PAINFULLY AS HE MADE HIS WAY INTO THE RUBBLE-HEAPED STREET...



CRAIG'S THOUGHTS TRAILED OFF! CYCLONIC-FLYING DEBRIS STRUCK HIM DOWN AND PILED RECKLESSLY ON HIM! HIS NEXT THOUGHTS AND ALL HIS ENERGIES WERE UTILIZED IN DIGGING HIMSELF OUT OF THE WRECKAGE!

ALL QUIET! ONLY A FEW MOMENTS TO WIPE OUT ALL MAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS! PEOPLE MUST LEARN AGAIN TO FEAR DEATH! THERE IS A WAY! IT CAN'T BE TOO LATE!

I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER HAVE TO USE THIS! THE ***ANTIDOTE!*** FORTUNATELY I PREPARED THE FORMULA FOR EMERGENCY! STEEL VIALS INTACT! I'VE ENOUGH SERUM TO MAKE A START! ONE DROP FOR EACH IS ENOUGH TO ***RETRACT*** IMMORTAL LIFE!

I'LL HAVE TO PRETEND TO THE PEOPLE THAT A SECOND DOSE IS NECESSARY FOR IMMORTAL LIFE! OTHERWISE, NO ONE WILL TAKE THE ANTIDOTE! WHEN EVERYONE ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN IT, I'LL TELL THEM THE TRUTH!... PEOPLE! COME HERE AND LISTEN! LISTEN... IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!

CRAIG'S VOICE BOUNCED AGAINST THE WRECKAGE AND ECHOED BACK! THERE WAS A MOMENT'S SILENCE! THEN VOICES ROSE ABOVE THE DEBRIS...

BOOM-BOM! YA-WO-HO-HA-BOM-BOM!

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING? WHAT STRANGE SOUNDS! ***LISTEN TO ME! COME HERE!*** IT'S JORDAN CRAIG, WHO GAVE YOU IMMORTAL LIFE!

OUT OF RUBBLE THE LIVING FIGURES EMERGED! THE IMMORTALS WHO HAD WITHSTOOD ATOMIC WAR! THEY SPOKE STRANGE SOUNDS! HOW COULD THEY KNOW ANY OTHER LANGUAGE... THESE MONSTER FIGURES...

PRIMITIVE BEASTS! THEY'VE GONE ***BACK*** TO THE ***FIRST STAGE OF LIFE!*** I GAVE THEM ***IMMORTALITY!*** BUT IT REDUCED THEM TO ***PRIMITIVES!***

CHIKIVE BOM!

VAINLY, CRAIG TRIED TO GET NEAR ENOUGH TO THESE BESTIAL BEINGS TO INJECT THE ANTIDOTE, BUT THE PRIMITIVES, STAGES BELOW EVEN EARLY MAN, WARDED HIM OFF!

WHAT'S THE USE? THEY'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND! THE ADDITIONAL DOSE OF SERUM I GAVE ***MYSELF*** PREVENTED ***ANY*** RETARD! BUT PERHAPS SUE... PERHAPS ***SHE*** REMAINED ON A HIGHER LEVEL! WHERE IS SHE?

A GLIMMER OF HOPE STIRRED IN CRAIG AS HE CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE FAMILIAR DRESS SUE HAD WORN! A GLIMMER OF HOPE THAT VANISHED FAST!

SUE! SUE! ANOTHER LIKE ***THEM!*** ***I DID*** THIS! I BROUGHT THEM TO THIS!

YIKEE YAK BOM-YAKEEDAK!

ACROSS THE WORLD, ACROSS THE DEVASTATED EARTH, THERE WAS NO LONGER A CIVILIZATION! CENTURIES OF HORRIFYING, IMMORTAL LIFE STRETCHED AHEAD...

IT WILL TAKE ***MILLIONS OF YEARS*** FOR THESE BEASTS OF THE LOWEST STAGE TO EVOLVE INTO ***MAN!*** THE WHOLE WORLD LOST! (SOB!) LOST TO ME! (SOB!) I'M ALL ALONE... WITH THIS... ***WITH THIS!***

5

THAT'S IT, FIENDS! WE'LL MEET YOU AGAIN BETWEEN THE COVERS OF THE NEXT ISSUE OF ***MARVEL TALES!*** FIND OUT WHY THEY GAVE HIM A GRAVE! PLUS OTHER TINGLING TALES!

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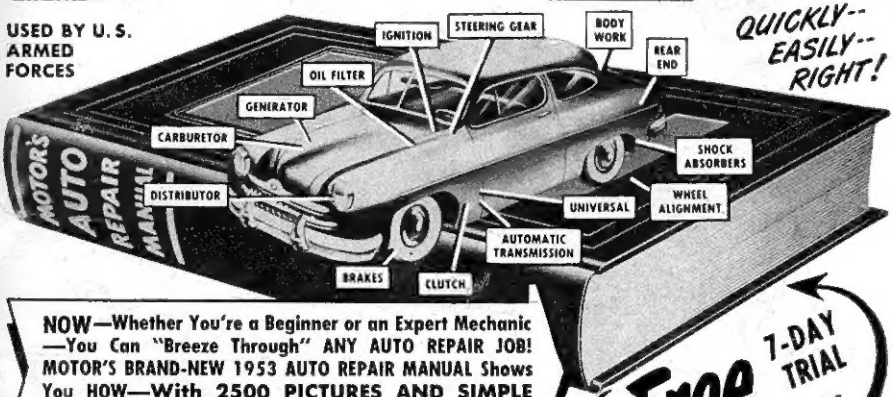

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